WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Posts of Hindi Officers etc. in Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

224. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of Hindi Translators/Hindi Officers/ Assistants created in the Ministry and allied PSUs/attached and subordinate offices for propagation of Hindi as official language and encouragement of correspondence in Hindi;

(b) the number of such posts lying vacant since when; and

(c) the reasons therefor and the steps taken to fill up such posts urgently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The information is being collected.

Production cost of urea in private sector

† 225. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing cost of urea in private sector and the reasons for the high cost;

(b) whether Government propose to reduce the production cost of urea; and

(c) if not, the reasons theretor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Under Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme, the retention prices (cost of production plus 12% post tax return) are fixed unit-wise having regard to a combination of norms and actuals of various cost elements. Operational cost of production of urea units differs not only from unit to unit but also from month to month, depending upon, *inter-alia*, the health and vintage of the plant, the feedstock used, the level of capacity utilization, specific consumption and inputs eost. Such computation is not related to *he unit being in

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.